

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-40 are currently pending. Claims 1, 5, 10, 19, 27, 30, 34, 37, and 40 have been amended to clarify the invention as claimed and not to overcome the rejections of the Office Action.

Claims 1-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the reference "Clear, Secure, and Portable Visual Marks for the Cyber World" of the World Wide Web Consortium [herein VM].

Section 103(a) Rejection

The VM reference discusses a method for embedding a digital watermark in a graphic image. See, for example, the discussion in VM on page 2/8, Section 2. However, the method of the VM reference does not teach or suggest every limitations of pending claims 1-40 in the following respects:

Methods and systems of the present invention relate to verifying as valid a given message, information related to the given message, and/or a signature log, wherein these pieces of information are suspect of having been corrupted, have been lost and restored or the like. More specifically, log entries of the given message and its related information are registered in the signature log. Other messages and their related information are also registered in the signature log. Each of the log entries for the other messages, which are registered after the given message and/or its related information, includes cryptographic information of the given message and/or its related information. A message and/or its related information are verified as valid by generating cryptographic information for the given message, its related information and/or a log entry for the given message, and determining whether the cryptographic information is included in the log entries registered in the signature log for the other messages.

By contrast, the VM reference, relates to a method for placing a digital watermark in a figure, wherein the digital water marks includes a hash of the figure, a hash of an IP-address for the page on which the figure is published, and/or a hash of the W-data, which is described in VM as including data defining pages of the web site on which the figure is presented. The digital watermark mark may be used by a user of the web site to verify that the web site is

authentic and is not presented by a party not associated with the owner of the web site. For example, the user may use a public key to unlock the hash values, and then may hash the figure, the IP-address, and/or the W-data to verify that the web site is authentic.

Although the VM reference discusses the verification of data using a hashing method, the VM reference fails to show or suggest the use of a signature log, wherein log entries in the signature log include hash information for other log entries and the messages associated with these other entries. Moreover, the VM reference fails to show or suggest a verification technique for a message, data associated with the message, and/or a log entry by hashing previously logged entries in the signature log and verifying the inclusion of the hashed information in subsequent log entries in the signature log.


Independent claims 1, 5, 10, 19, 27, 30, 34, 37, and 40 have been amended according to one or more of the foregoing remarks. Original independent claims 22, 26, 29, and 33 include limitations according to one or more of the foregoing remarks. Therefore, each of the independent claims 1, 5, 10, 19, 22, 26, 27, 29, 30, 33, 34, 37, and 40, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over VM.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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